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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,892	12/07/2001	Michiaki Matsushita	217028US3	7559
22850	7590	02/03/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.				
1940 DUKE STREET				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1756	

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/004,892	MATSUSHITA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daborah Chacko-Davis	1756	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>03/05/2002</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-17, in the Response filed on October 24, 2003 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the claims of the present invention appear to be part of an overlapping search area, and that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. This is not found persuasive because the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process such as a photoCVD process.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0025375 (Takamori et al).

Takamori, in [0058], [0059], [0060], [0061], [0062], [0063], [0064], and [0065], and in figures 1, 2, 3, 7, 13, discloses a coating and developing apparatus comprising a loader section (reference 2) that has at least one cassette station (carrier, reference 10)

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that has a plurality of substrates (processed, and unprocessed, by loading and unloading, steps S1, and S14), a processing unit (reference 24) for applying resist on a surface of a substrate, a developing processing unit (reference 18), an interface section (reference 7) for transferring the substrate to the light-exposure apparatus (reference 6), a baking processing unit (reference 20) that adjusts the temperature of the substrate prior to exposing, and transfer mechanisms (first and second) to transfer the substrate among the different processors such as the coating section, baking section, the exposing section, and the developing unit (claims 1, 7, and 10). Takamori, in [0133], [0134], [0135], [0136], [0137], and figure 13, discloses transferring the resist coated substrate to a peripheral exposing unit (reference 31) using the transfer arm mechanism (reference 332) (claims 2, and 9). Takamori, in [0061], and in [0063], discloses that the transfer means transfer the substrate to baking unit prior to transfer to the peripheral resist removing unit (claim 3). Takamori, in [0065], [0074], [0075], [0137], [0138], [0139], [0140], and [0142], and figure 3, discloses a section in the coating unit that includes a temperature controlling unit that controls the temperature of the substrate (reference H1) to be coated with the resist, controlling the temperature to which the resist coated is heated, after which the resist coated substrate is transferred to the peripheral resist removing section in which the peripheral portion of the resist (exposed portion outside the circuit element forming area) is removed (claims 4, 8, 11). Takamori, in [0058], [0059], and in figure 1, discloses that the processing units are stacked in a shelf section (claim 12). Takamori, in [0059], [0060], [0061], [0062], and in figures 1, and 2, discloses that the first transfer arm and the second transfer arm have a

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back and forth driving mechanism and are aligned in a straight line such that the first transfer arm (reference 15) face the second transfer arm (reference 22) at the first interface section (interposed shelf section) wherein the transfer arms play a role in loading/unloading the substrates among the processing units and the interface sections (claim 13). Takamori, in [0060], in [0063], discloses that the first transfer arm and the second transfer arm have a back and forth driving mechanism wherein the arms are moveable in the X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis direction and also possess a θ -rotation driving mechanism (rotatable about a vertical axis) (claims 14-15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0025375 (Takamori et al) in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,939,130 (Shiraishi et al).

Takamori is discussed in paragraph no. 3.

The difference between the claims and Takamori is that Takamori does not disclose that the interface section includes a clean-air filter unit wherein the air that is passed through the clean-air filter is flown down into the interface section (claims 5, and 16). Takamori does not disclose that the interface section includes an electrical unit

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that houses an electrical facility, such that the air passed through the clean-air filter is flown down into a space for the electrical unit in the interface section (claims 6, and 17).

Shiraishi, in col 6, lines 4-24, discloses that clean air is supplied into the processing unit through a filter wherein the processing unit houses power supply units.

Therefore, it would be obvious to a skilled artisan to modify Takamori by employing the air-filter suggested by Shiraishi because Shiraishi, in col 7, lines 9-22, discloses that the downflow of the clean filtered air supplied into the processing chamber is used to adjust the temperature and humidity of the chamber atmosphere so as to have a temperature and humidity which are optimum for the resist coating process.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daborah Chacko-Davis whose telephone number is (571) 272-1380. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 - 6:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F Huff can be reached on (571) 272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2693.

dcd



January 26, 2004.

